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Your Petitioner, Douglas M. Okuniewicz, citizen of the United States of America and resident of the State of Nevada, whose residence and mailing address is 330 East Warm Springs Road, Suite A-2, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119, prays that Letters Patent Protection be granted to him for a

CO-LOCATED LOTTERY GAME FOR A GAMING DEVICE

as set forth in the following specification:

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This continuation application claims priority to the filing date of a related provisional application serial No. 60/196,827 filed April 13, 2000, related utility application serial No. 09/834,537 filed April 13, 2001 and issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,585,589 and related utility application serial No. 10/388,819 filed March 14, 2003.

Background of the Invention

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to interface devices for electronic devices and, more particularly, to a lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game which is operative to signal the lottery system to issue an entry into the lottery when a preset event or series of events occurs in or around the gaming device.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Spinning reel slot machines, video slot machines and video poker machines continue to be three of the most widely used types of electronic gaming devices found in the gaming industry. While the types and designs of the slot machines and video poker machines have continued to evolve, game play has remained generally the same in that when a specific combination is hit on the reels or turned up in the cards, it produces particular winning combinations and payouts based on the pay table of the slot machine or video poker machine. With that in mind, many slot machine manufacturers have attempted to increase the excitement generated by game play by adding peripheral devices such as sound generators or video screens which promote increased game play by presenting entertaining accompaniments to the game play of the slot machine or video poker machine. The trend has continued in that many of the currently produced slot machines and video gaming devices include various bonus generators which are shown on the primary or accompanying video screens or other informational devices as an entertaining way for a slot machine player to receive a bonus. Of course, due to the limitations of the slot machines, a bonus is generally paid in additional credits or coin which, while admittedly generating additional interest in the game, can only go so far to increase the enjoyment and hence encourage repeated game play of the device. There is therefore a need for a bonusing system which produces a bonus which is randomly generated and includes a bonusing factor beyond mere credits.

One of the most popular forms of gambling currently available are the random drawing lotteries offered by many states, such as

1 Powerball, Pick 5, The Big Game and other such random lottery
2 drawings. Obviously, due to the nature of these drawings, it is
3 much more difficult to win the significant amounts of money than
4 the smaller jackpots available by playing slot machines or the
5 like, but it is the appeal of these enormous amounts of money that
6 lure people to participate in the various lotteries. Currently,
7 there is little, if any, connection between slot machine play and
8 random drawing or scratch ticket lottery play, although the two
9 forms of gambling are often participated in by the same gambler.
10 It is entirely possible that the synergy produced by being able to
11 simultaneously participate in these two generally disassociated
12 forms of gambling will increase the amount of game play of both
13 forms of gambling. It is clear that when casinos enter a market,
14 the amount of money spent on lotteries decreases. It is believed
15 that creating a closer connection between casino operations and
16 lottery games will increase the exposure for the lottery games,
17 introducing them to a new group of consumers, thereby increasing
18 revenues. Therefore, there is a need for a gambling connection
19 between slot machines and lotteries which will permit a gambler to
20 participate in the two forms of gambling generally simultaneously.

21 Some of the most popular forms of slot machines currently
22 available on the market are found in Quartermania, Cool Millions
23 and Megabucks, amongst other wide-area progressive links, which
24 offer the opportunity for the player to win upwards of one million
25 dollars on a single spin of the slot machine. Of course, though
26 the chances of winning the top jackpot are very small, a player
27 will play the game for that chance and also for the enjoyment of
28 winning smaller prizes during game play. It is believed that the

1 game play will be further enhanced by the addition of additional
2 chances for the winning of even more significant amounts of money,
3 such as through a Powerball jackpot or the like. There is
4 therefore a need for an interface between a slot machine and a
5 lottery system to permit the dispensing of lottery entries in
6 response to particular reel combinations or particular events
7 occurring on the slot machine board environment, or in response to
8 actions or activities related to associated and peripheral
9 equipment, thereby enhancing game play.

10 Therefore an object of the present invention is to provide a
11 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling
12 game.

13 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
14 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game
15 which will permit the dispensing of an entry into a lottery drawing
16 in response to a particular event or series of events occurring in
17 the slot machine board environment or in and around the slot
18 machine.

19 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
20 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game
21 which will enhance game play and encourage additional game play for
22 the gaming device player.

23 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
24 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game
25 which is usable with many different types of gaming equipment,
26 including but not limited to VLTs, linked VLT systems, slot
27 machines with physical reels, video slot machines, central draw
28 finite systems, bingo and keno machines and systems, table games

1 and video poker devices.

2 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
3 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game
4 which is usable with virtually any operable networking system,
5 including but not limited to LAN, WAN, Internet, G3 cellular
6 systems, radio-frequency (RF), line-of-sight, fiber-optic, wireless
7 and networks using various protocols including TCP/IP.

8 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
9 lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game
10 which will receive event occurrence signals from the electronic
11 gaming device, translate those event occurrence signals into
12 discernable commands for a lottery system and command the lottery
13 system to output a particular type of lottery entry in response to
14 the occurrence of a particular event or series of events in or
15 around the slot machine.

16 Finally, it is an object of the present invention to provide
17 a lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling
18 game which is efficient in design and use and will encourage
19 increased patronage of the electronic device and therefore of the
20 lottery itself.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game includes at least one detection device operative to detect selected event occurrences of an electronic gaming device and output event occurrence signals upon detection of an event or series of events occurring in or around an electronic gaming device and an interface device in information transmission connection with the detection device, the interface device operative to detect and receive event occurrence signals from the detection device, analyze and translate the event occurrence signals and output lottery entry dispensing commands. Finally, a lottery entry device is in information transmission connection with the interface device and in information transmission connection with a central lottery system, the lottery entry device operative to receive the lottery entry dispensing commands output by the interface device and output at least one entry ticket into a lottery event via and in connection with the central lottery system whereby an operator of an electronic gaming device receives at least one entry into the lottery event.

The advantages of the present invention over those devices found in the prior art are numerous and include the fact that the present invention may be added to any gaming device to produce command outputs in response to event occurrences in the electronic apparatus, thereby printing at least one lottery entry ticket. Furthermore, because the present invention may be quickly and easily reprogrammed to respond to different gaming device events, a variety of response schemes may be instituted over the life span of a gaming device, thus insuring that consumer interest in the

1 games remain relatively high. Furthermore, because the interface
2 of the present invention can be networked, a group of interfaces
3 may exchange information and be controlled via a remote system,
4 thus increasing efficiency while decreasing the potential for
5 downtime often required for updated programming, maintenance
6 functions or downloading data.

7 The present invention also combines the excitement of the
8 traditional slot machine or video gaming device with a heretofore
9 entirely separate element of gaming, the lottery game. With the
10 present invention, not only are winning combinations paid, but the
11 player also will have the opportunity to win huge bonus prizes with
12 his or her entry into the associated lottery event. Therefore, the
13 present invention provides a substantial improvement over those
14 devices found in the prior art.

1 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

2 Figure 1 is a block diagram showing the operation of the
3 present invention.

4 Figure 2 is a lower-level block diagram of the operation of
5 the present invention.

6 Figure 3 is a lower-level block diagram showing the networking
7 of the LIBs.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The lottery system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game of the present invention is primarily designed to enhance both the game play of an electronic gaming device in a casino or the like, the electronic gaming device usually being a slot machine, video slot machine or video poker game, video lottery terminal (VLT), linked VLT system, slot machine with physical reels, central draw finite system, bingo and/or keno machine or system, table game and lottery sales and exposure. The enhancement of game play occurs when a particular event or series of events occurs in the gaming device which results in the dispensing of a lottery ticket, preferably of the Powerball® or Lotto® type of on-line lottery game. In the preferred embodiment, an electronic gaming device such as a slot machine or video slot machine would be used as the base unit for the implementation of the present invention, and examples of the events which might trigger the dispensing of a lottery ticket would include the hitting of a specific reel combination, a preset amount of coin in, a certain level of game play, or any other detectable electronic device event or series of events.

The preferred information flow of the present invention is shown in Figure 1 with the invention including an activity monitoring unit or AMU which would be connected to the electronic gaming device for monitoring event occurrences in the electronic gaming device, preferably to specific electronic gaming device elements including but not limited to a digital display board, a reel position sensor and a hard meter harness. In the preferred embodiment, the AMU would be a programmable electronic activity

1 detector and command generator which would include at least one
2 detection device adapted to be connected to the electronic gaming
3 device board, an event detection sampling device in information
4 transmission connection with the detection device and a
5 programmable event occurrence information signal computing device
6 connected to the event detection sampling device operative to
7 output command signals therefrom for commanding a connected lottery
8 entry generating device to output a lottery entry in response to a
9 specific occurrence or occurrences in or around the electronic
10 gaming device. Of course, it is to be understood that it is the
11 functional characteristics of the AMU which are critical to the
12 present invention, i.e. the monitoring and signaling functions of
13 the AMU, not the specific embodiment of the AMU. Therefore, any
14 appropriate monitoring and signaling device, method, software,
15 firmware or system could be substituted in the present invention,
16 or such could be incorporated directly into the gaming device, such
17 as being built into the electronic gaming device board, programmed
18 into the software of the electronic gaming device itself or
19 incorporated into the lottery system software or hardware. In the
20 present invention, the AMU would be programmed to output command
21 signals which can be interpreted by a connected lottery interface
22 board or LIB which receives the command signals from the AMU and
23 converts those signals into commands which are readable by a
24 lottery system for outputting of lottery entries therefrom.

25 In the preferred embodiment, the LIB would preferably be a
26 circuit board including a programmable microchip which would be
27 programmed to accept the command signals from the AMU and output
28 ticket generation commands to the lottery system. Of course, it

1 should be noted that the LIB is representative of any equivalent
2 system for providing the interface between the electronic gaming
3 device and the lottery system. Therefore, any appropriate lottery
4 interface system could be substituted in the present invention, or
5 such a system could be incorporated directly into the gaming
6 device, such as being built into the electronic gaming device board
7 or programmed into the software of the electronic gaming device or
8 electronic gaming device central system itself. Therefore, the LIB
9 will preferably be connected to the AMU by a serial interface and
10 the AMU will be connected to the electronic gaming device by a
11 hardwire harness to connect to the appropriate sampling location or
12 locations on the electronic gaming device board or where
13 appropriate. Regarding the appropriate connections to properly
14 connect the LIB to the lottery system, it is expected that such
15 connections would be understood by one skilled in the art of gaming
16 device connections, depending upon the type of lottery terminal
17 being used and the connection requirements. It should be noted
18 that the electrical connections of the LIB to the lottery system
19 would be understood by one skilled in the art and are not critical
20 to the present invention whereas the functionality of the LIB is
21 critical to the present invention. For example, it is entirely
22 possible and acceptable to connect the LIB to the lottery system at
23 any feasible point within the lottery system, not only through the
24 lottery terminal. Should the user of the present invention choose
25 to connect to the lottery system at any other point within the
26 system other than the lottery terminal, the present invention is
27 easily adaptable to such use, and such connections would be
28 understood by those skilled in the art.

1 The LIB may also be connected to other elements of the gaming
2 side of the electronic gaming device, specifically including but
3 not limited to connection to a Player Tracking Unit, the central
4 Player Tracking Computer, the central accounting/security computer
5 if different than the PTC or to a central system such as a "Central
6 Draw Finite System", wherein the individual game outcomes are
7 determined and then sent to the physical machine to be displayed to
8 the player. Of course, various combinations of connections may be
9 used with the present invention so long as the LIB functions as an
10 interface between the electronic gaming device elements and a
11 lottery system.

12 A further important feature of the LIB of the present
13 invention is that the LIB's are networkable themselves. For
14 example, as shown best in Figure 3, a number of LIB units may be
15 connected to one another for updating, accounting, security, bi-
16 directional downloads, enabling and disabling of LIB's, controlling
17 associated equipment and control of peripheral devices (e.g. signs,
18 meters, lights, audio and video devices). These and other
19 functions can be carried out with a central computer or through a
20 "master" LIB in the network or through the lottery system's central
21 computer, another lottery system computer or the electronic gaming
22 device's central computer. This networking can be performed via a
23 separate network system or may be "piggybacked" onto an existing
24 network system depending on the specific design of the
25 communication systems within the casino or gaming environment.
26 Furthermore, the LIB or LIB network may be connected to an
27 independent, private or casino-run lottery system which functions
28 generally similarly to the large state-run lottery systems, or to

1 any other desired lottery system to enhance game play and encourage
2 increased wagering and gaming.

3 It should also be noted that the LIB may be used for
4 accounting and security tracking functions for gaming devices,
5 including such functions as tracking coin in, coin out, machine
6 win, door open, jackpots and various tilts and other such
7 electronic gaming device functions. Further, the LIB is
8 programmable to include similar functions for a lottery system,
9 including the number of tickets printed, paper jams, malfunctions,
10 tilts and other such functions and activities.

11 Returning to the lottery terminal, in the case of Powerball®,
12 for example, the lottery ticket terminal is preferably a MUSL
13 (Multistate Lottery) proprietary terminal which is connected to the
14 MUSL central system account in the common manner used in connection
15 with lottery terminals. The lottery terminal would then print a
16 lottery ticket through a printing unit which, in the preferred
17 embodiment, would be attached externally to or be housed within the
18 electronic gaming device on or around which the triggering event or
19 series of events had just occurred. In this manner, the player of
20 the electronic gaming device may easily obtain a lottery ticket
21 and/or voucher without leaving the vicinity of the electronic
22 gaming device and without purchasing it separately. Of course,
23 numerous variations of this setup are possible, as are the outputs
24 of the lottery terminal depending on the associated lottery game.
25 It is expected that one type of lottery game would be selected for
26 participation, but that one game may require additional inputs
27 through an associated keypad or touch screen, to enable a player to
28 choose his or her own numbers for participation in the lottery.

1 Other variations might include a randomly generated entry (Quick
2 Pick) or the chosen numbers could correspond to numbers generated
3 by the electronic gaming device as part of a coordinated gaming
4 scheme designed for use with this invention. An additional number
5 selection option for the lottery ticket would include providing a
6 bonus screen on the electronic gaming device for manually or
7 randomly selecting numbers for the lottery ticket. Of course,
8 references to numerical values should be understood to include any
9 and all characters usable for information transmission, such as
10 letters and symbols, and such are usable with the present
11 invention.

12 The AMU is programmed to recognize the occurrence of a
13 specific event or series of events, and when that specific event or
14 series of events occur(s), the AMU recognizes that occurrence and
15 forwards an event notification signal to the LIB. The LIB then
16 receives those signals and analyzes and translates those signals to
17 signal the lottery system to output a lottery entry, if so
18 commanded by the AMU. If so, the LIB outputs a lottery entry
19 generation command to the lottery system. The system in turn
20 commands the entry to be dispensed at the output location
21 corresponding to the electronic gaming device at which the event or
22 series of events occurred, thus allowing game play to continue
23 uninterrupted and therefore not affecting the speed of game play.
24 The system will function with the AMU being programmed to determine
25 which events will cause the generation of lottery tickets, but it
26 is the LIB which is vital to enable the signaling of the lottery
27 system to output at least one entry ticket.

28 At the present time, most, if not all, of the state-run

1 lottery computers have built-in "down-time" during which time the
2 maintenance on the system may be performed or implementation of new
3 and/or modified software may be done. Also, unforeseen down-time
4 can occur in the lottery system due to occurrence of system errors.
5 In any event, during any down-time, lottery tickets cannot be
6 printed by remote terminals. However, as most casinos operate on
7 a 24-hour basis, it is virtually guaranteed that at least one event
8 or series of events will occur on a electronic gaming device which
9 induces the printing of a lottery ticket during the down-time of
10 the lottery system. In this situation, the lottery terminal,
11 lottery printer or alternative printer would be commanded to print
12 a voucher ticket which the player of the electronic gaming device
13 could later redeem for a lottery ticket at a time when the system
14 is once again up and running. Alternatively, the central lottery
15 system would periodically generate a pool of entries to be used
16 during a system shut down, whether the shut down is scheduled or is
17 due to system failure, and would preferably be one of the initial
18 steps in initializing a new drawing period. An entry from this
19 pool would then be output to the player during the down-time
20 period. Unused entries from this pool would then be removed or
21 purged from the subsequent or related drawing. Of course, any
22 acceptable type of printed or outputted indicia signifying entry
23 into a lottery event can be substituted for the "tickets" or
24 "vouchers" previously described, each of which would be understood
25 by one skilled in the art of lottery gaming.

26 Of course, it is to be understood that numerous modifications,
27 substitutions and additions may be made to the present invention
28 which are within the intended broad scope of this disclosure. For

1 example, many different types of lottery systems from many
2 different manufacturers may be connected to the invention. Those
3 different lottery systems may have different programming installed
4 in the microchips of any of the command generator units and the
5 particular hardwiring used to connect the device to the lottery
6 terminal may also be different. Also, although the present
7 invention has been described as being used in connection with a
8 electronic gaming device, it should be noted that the AMU and LIB
9 of the present invention are programmable for operation with
10 virtually any type of electronic device, including video slot
11 machines, video lottery terminals, video poker games, video keno
12 games, vending machines, arcade machines, ATMs and virtually any
13 other electronic device which can be connected to the AMU and LIB.
14 Furthermore, the present invention may be retrofitted onto existing
15 electronic gaming devices due to the design of the AMU, and
16 therefore can be used in almost any gaming situation. Finally,
17 although the present invention has been described as commanding the
18 dispensing of lottery tickets and/or vouchers, it should be noted
19 that numerous other types of lottery-related products may be
20 dispensed in response to event occurrences on the electronic
21 device, such as pickle cards, scratch tickets, keno tickets, gaming
22 tokens, raffle entries and other such items.

23 There has therefore been shown and described a lottery
24 system/electronic gaming device interface and gambling game which
25 accomplishes at least all of its intended objectives.